

Comments	Response
<p> From: Rick Kattelmann <rickk@qnet.com> To: <BWarden@waterboards.ca.gov> Date: 2/22/2012 4:44 PM Subject: comments regarding Renewal of General Conditional Waiver ... Bridgeport Valley </p> <p> Dr. Bruce Warden California Regional Water Quality Control Board -- Lahontan Region 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 </p> <p>February 22, 2012</p> <p> Rick Kattelmann 143 Jeffrey Pine Road Crowley Lake, CA 93546 </p> <p>Dear Dr. Warden:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity for comment on the proposed renewal of the conditional agricultural waiver for the Bridgeport Valley. I happened to receive a copy of the Tentative Renewal document released in January via Mono County. I have been working on a general watershed assessment for the East Walker River watershed and am familiar with the existing waiver and the surrounding issues.</p> <p>In my opinion, the terms of the proposed renewal may be counter-productive to long term improvements in water quality in the tributaries to the East Walker River. Although I recognize the difficulties of finding an effective mix of incentives and penalties to promote the implementation of management practices that will eventually contribute to improved water quality, I am concerned that the proposed measures, standards, and schedule in the tentative waiver document could lead some of your partners to just give up or contest the action in court.</p> <p>I recommend that the existing waiver be extended until an alternative program can be developed that encourages implementation and adaptation of Best Management Practices without unreasonable cost and urgency to the ranching partners.</p> <p>In the longer term, I recommend that the Basin Plan be amended to replace the 20 colony forming units per 100 ml standard with the common 200 colony forming units per 100 ml coliform standard used by the other regions. The current regional standard simply appears unattainable in an area such as the Bridgeport Valley as well as not serving any reasonable purpose for California or the local area.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> <p> Rick Kattelmann Hydrologist and former Planning Commissioner for Mono County </p>	<div data-bbox="1182 272 2062 443"> <p>Kattelmann-R1: Water Board staff met with some BRO members on March 12, 2012, and on May 31, 2012, and discussed BRO concerns. At those meetings, mutually agreeable changes were made to the proposed grazing waiver, showing that this process has been collaborative.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1182 483 2062 885"> <p>Kattelmann-R2: Regional Water Board staff met with Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (BRO) members on March 12, 2012 to discuss this and other concerns. By mutual agreement, the Water Board hearing for the proposed adoption of the grazing waiver was delayed three months—from April 2012 to the July 2012 Water Board meeting. After revising the tentative waiver in response to BRO and other commenter concerns, a second tentative waiver was issued May 4, 2012 with comments due June 4, 2012. Another meeting of Water Board staff and BRO members was held May 31, 2012 to arrive at a mutually agreeable approach to address key issues of concern in the 2nd tentative waiver. Agreed-upon changes to the 2nd tentative waiver are reflected in the proposed grazing waiver.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1182 914 2062 1162"> <p>Kattelmann-R3: The Water Board is concerned about the reasonableness of water quality objectives in geographic areas where the dominant beneficial use is agriculture, such as livestock grazing in the Bridgeport Valley. As a result, significant Water Board resources have been used towards assessment of and development of indicator bacteria water quality objectives. For a list of major actions taken, please see Finding No. 5 of the proposed waiver.</p> </div>

